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UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Channavajjala, L.S. Art Unit: 1615

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Re: Application of: Choe, et al.

NOV 03 2003

Serial No.: 10/078,649

Filed: February 19, 2002

For: **TERMINALLY-BRANCHED POLYMERIC
LINKERS AND POLYMERIC
CONJUGATES CONTAINING THE SAME****RESPONSE****VIA FACSIMILE 703-872-9306**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

November 3, 2003

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 2, 2003, the following remarks are made:

In response to the requirement of election of species, Applicants elect to further prosecute in this case the species corresponding to:

Formula I, where D1 and D2 are independently Formula IV, wherein B₁ is a residue of an amine-containing moiety. The Examiner is directed to compound 6b as found in Example 6 and Figure 1.

It is believed that claims 1-14, 16-24 currently read on the elected species.

This response to the requirement of the election of species is made with traverse. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. It is believed that the claims specifically directed to all of the compounds of formula I should be examined together and that the differences between species is not such as to require separate examinations. No separate search would be required in addition to that which should be performed for the compound identified above as the elected species.

The Examiner has the discretion to prosecute all of the pending claims in a single patent application. In fact, "[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (Emphasis added; Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, § 803, second paragraph).

FEES

October 2, 2003, was a Sunday, consequently this response is being filed within the shortened time period for response. No further fees are believed to be required. If, on the other hand, it is determined that further fees are necessary or any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to the above-mentioned deposit account.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MUSERLIAN, LUCAS & MERCANTI, L.L.P.

By: 

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response is
being facsimile transmitted to the
Commissioner for Patents on the
date shown below.

November 3, 2003

MUSERLIAN, LUCAS & MERCANTI, L.L.P.

BY: 

Michael N. Mercanti